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W A R T I M E   E X T E N S I O N   W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS  
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

Cooperative program carried on to aid farmers in making  
labor-saving equipment.

Institutes give training in recreation leadership.

New fence post of cedar and mesquite will last many years.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE  
December 1, 1944

Forestry.- War needs for lumber and pulpwood make many demands on time of State extension forester and four assistant county agents in forestry. Assistance these men give to farmers involves price and market information as well as reconnaissance of both large and small woodland areas. They emphasize desirability of cutting only mature trees, so that enough growing stock will be left to enable owners to make another cut later. They also point out opportunities for procuring stovewood and methods for cutting and handling it, especially use of bow saws or pulpsaws. At wood-lot meetings throughout State, various saws, including new power chain saw, will be demonstrated.

Recreation leadership training.- To keep up morale during stress of war and to give rural young people benefits of supervised recreation, New Hampshire Extension Service is sponsoring series of institutes in recreation leadership. These have been held in regional centers in different parts of State, under direction of an extension recreation specialist. Another series of officer training and program planning institutes is being conducted under extension leadership in three towns in different sections. Each of these courses has three to five sessions and includes actual demonstrations and practice. Techniques and necessary qualities for leadership in games, program planning, suggestions for source materials, and parliamentary procedure are covered. Enrollees in officer training course are separated into two groups according to their interest: (1) 4-H participation in meetings and use of demonstrations or (2) youth extension program planning.

TEXAS  
January 1, 1945

Farm labor.- Looking to greater efficiency of limited farm labor supply in 1945, Agricultural Experiment Station, Triple-A, Soil Conservation Service, and

Vocational Agricultural Service will cooperate with Texas Extension Service in educational program to aid farmers in constructing inexpensive labor-saving equipment on or near their farms. Proved types of equipment will be selected for demonstration to farmer groups seasonally at 18 substations. Devices developed by experiment station would be given action demonstrations and, where possible, demonstrated subsequently on farms. Farmers would be invited to bring in for demonstration labor-saving equipment they had originated and built. Some 500 shops operated under State vocational agricultural department would assist farmers in building equipment. Shop teachers would be invited to observe demonstrations as practice in advising farmers how to build duplicates.

Texas farms now have about 260,000 fewer persons than in 1940 and 37 percent greater production. Work is being done with community groups toward setting up 100 centers for use of migratory farm laborers later in year. Centers would expedite placement and routing of families and crews by extension workers. Field workers in lower Rio Grande Valley and Winter Garden areas soon will be making contacts with about 2,500 crew leaders representing 30,000 migratory laborers, most of them Spanish-speaking, who pick large part of State's cotton crop. Object is to develop confidence of these people in labor program and bring about more systematic distribution of their services.

Agronomy.— Last summer and fall special effort was made to obtain planting of increased acreage of winter legumes. Farmers responded well despite very dry weather, especially in October, when most winter cover crops are planted. Total of nearly 6½ million pounds of winter legume seed was delivered through AAA materials and service program during year—increase of more than 100 percent over 1943. Agronomist estimates that at least a million pounds of home-grown seed and seed bought from dealers, especially sweetclover, also was planted. With favorable weather 7½ million acres seeded would have been greatly increased. Year-end reports show Texas farmers harvested more than 29 million acres of principal crops, including record production of wheat, grain sorghums, and rice.

Horticulture.— Orchard School of the Air is planned for January, and similar 5-day radio series, Spring Garden School of the Air, in mid-March. Horticultural departments of college will participate. Suggestions have been exchanged with all extension horticulturists in Southern States, based on effective programs of 1944. Program for 1945 will give special emphasis to gardening.

Cattle grub control.— Extension entomologist has given much time to training new county agricultural agents through field demonstrations in methods of controlling cattle grubs and lice. Pieces of leather from grub-damaged hides were sent to all county agents to show farmers and ranchmen extent of losses caused by cattle grubs. Circular on losses due to cattle grub ravages and means of control, prepared by entomologist, was supplied to county agricultural agents for distribution at demonstrations. As result of these activities more than 1 million Texas cattle are expected to be treated this year for control of lice and grubs.

Wildlife.— To curb damage to livestock and poultry in north and north central Texas due to increasing population of coyotes and wolves, extension game-management specialist assisted 60 county agricultural agents in instituting trapping program. Through cooperation of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, about 115 Government trappers will be available to help county agents in State-wide educational meetings.



Predator control program is being coordinated with one in Oklahoma.. In two districts county agents were assisted with fish-stocking program for more than 4,500 farm ponds. About 3 million fish from State and Federal hatcheries were distributed. County agents report about 30,000 legal bucks taken in Texas during 1944 hunting season. More than 15 million acres are represented in game-management associations in 175 counties.

Agricultural economics.- During November and December farmers were given helpful suggestions for filling out income-tax returns. One of most popular aids provided by Extension is "Income tax helps from your county agent," which was distributed in large numbers through office of county agents. Change in taxing livestock sales has been analyzed for information of farmers. Texas Farm Record Book is being revised to allow summary on cash basis, accrual basis, or regular farm-management summary. Educational material also is being prepared on landlord-tenant relations, largely on advantages of written agreements and important provisions each lease should contain.

4-H Club boys help.- During 1944, 17,374 members of Texas 4-H boys' clubs bought \$555,537 worth of war bonds and stamps, and 3,973 club boys taking part in bond drives sold \$1,077,265 worth of bonds and stamps. In scrap drives, 16,208 boys gathered 6,561,628 pounds of scrap metal and 300,339 pounds of scrap rubber. This was done in addition to their club demonstrations and usually full time work on home farms.

Agricultural engineering.- Field demonstrations for farmers by county agricultural agents have stimulated interest in simple practice for draining certain lands on Gulf coast. For many years Extension Service has advocated corrugating nearly level lands in area by plowing tilled fields into narrow strips to give some of soil a high level. Putting shallow ditches through native pastures and ranges so that all grass will not stand in water for days also has been recommended. AAA payments and work of county agents have resulted in large acreages being treated. Possibilities are great for increasing grass, clover, and crop production by these practices.

New-type fence post.- Combination fence post of cedar and mesquite, designed by extension farm forester, if put into general use would extend practical utility of these abundant woods. Construction requires stub of short-stem mesquite, having large proportion of durable heartwood, about 3 feet long and 6 or more inches in diameter. Upper end, extending 1 foot above ground, contains tapering hole 8 inches deep, about 3 inches at top and 2 at bottom. Slender cedar post about 4 feet long then is set into hole. Fence wires are carried in holes through cedar upright to prevent strain. Advantages lie in durability of mesquite, which is more fire-resistant than cedar, and if outer layer of sapwood is treated to resist borer attack, may last 50 years. Because of its gnarled growth, mesquite alone is not well adapted for posts.

Food preservation.- One to three meat-preservation schools for county home demonstration agents have been held in each of 11 of States 12 extension districts in recent weeks. Schools consisted of demonstrations in canning beef, curing pork, making lard, freezing meat, use of preserved meats, and in some instances making soap from cracklings. Agents will repeat work to people in their counties who are interested in meat preservation.

Food production.-- Looking to this year's production, extension food specialists have made plans to help county home demonstration agents train persons in their counties to help them broadcast information early in year on need for home food production and improved cookery and ways to make a good beginning on home food job for 1945. In furtherance of these objectives, publication, Your 1945 Home Food Program--What Must It Be? was prepared for early release. Orders from 196 white home demonstration agents and 30 Negro agents numbered 292,153 copies before printing.

Negro activities. Sirup-making demonstrations have been conducted by Negro county agricultural agents in Smith, Freestone, and Brazos Counties. More than 100 gallons were made at the Smith County demonstration, and 750 in Freestone. One group of Brazos County Negro farmers made 374 gallons and another 225 gallons. Sirup in Freestone County was made at cooperative mill, and 400 gallons of output were sold at \$1.50 a gallon. County agent reports that farmers have more orders for home-cooked sirup than they can fill.

Thirty-two Limestone County farmers and 4-H Club boys attended three method demonstrations in killing, curing, and cutting meat. Butchering demonstrations also were conducted in Guadalupe, Polk, and Wood Counties to train Negro farm families in cutting and curing meat on farms and preparing it for freezer lockers and canning.

Six members of Willis boys' 4-H Club of Montgomery County were instructed in vaccinating hogs and allowed to use all equipment in assisting with vaccination of 28 hogs for control of cholera for eight farmers. In Matagorda County 176 pigs have been treated for worms and lice and vaccinated against cholera. Each demonstrator was instructed in this work to assist in training farmers and club boys in other communities in correct swine sanitation and health.

Lavaca County farmers who graded sweetpotatoes under supervision of the Negro county agricultural agent received premiums of 25 to 50 cents a hundred. Farmers who broke land early and applied fertilizers had higher yield.

